

WASHINGTON.
"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."
SATURDAY, MAY 3, 1851.

THE "RIGHT OF SECESSION" EXPLODED.

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT.

The doctrine of the right of any State to secede at will from the Union—being the ground upon which the State of South Carolina proposes to take up arms against the Government of the United States—has been defended as the doctrine of Virginia, and especially of Mr. Madison, than whose authority none is entitled to higher respect.

We are indebted to our very worthy contemporary, the Editor of the Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer, for bringing to light evidence of the doctrine of Mr. Madison and of the CONSTITUTION, on this precise point, which leaves not another word for any man to say on the subject. We now know upon what authority it was that Judge ROANE proclaimed at a meeting of the Electoral College in Richmond, in the year 1800, that "Secession is Treason."

The matter is so well introduced in the Observer—the reason of this evidence only at this day becoming public so succinctly explained, and the necessary conclusions from it so clearly stated—that we will not undertake to add a word to the exposition copied from that paper, as follows.

FROM THE FAYETTEVILLE "OBSERVER" OF APRIL 29.

The publication, by Congress and otherwise, of the works of the great and good men who formed our present admirable system of Government, and put it in operation, is doing much to root out the humbugs to which abstractionists in South Carolina and Virginia, and even in North Carolina, are endeavoring to give form and substance, with a view to promote their own selfish and ambitious purposes. We have been sometimes told by these malcontents that the right of secession is a "constitutional right;" and then again that it is a "reserved right," not surrendered by the States when they made the Federal Constitution.

We have before us the first volume of the works of ALEXANDER HAMILTON, just published by Congress, and in it we find a correspondence between himself and Mr. Madison, which establishes some important principles on this subject. MADISON and HAMILTON were leading members of the Convention which formed the Constitution. They wrote those powerful Essays which have been embodied under the title of the "Federalist," in explanation of the provisions of the Constitution, and which contributed so essentially to the object for which they were prepared—the ratification of the Constitution by the States. They were afterwards members of the State Conventions in their respective States, by which, after a great struggle in each, the Constitution was finally ratified. During the sittings of these Conventions—the one at Richmond, the other at Poughkeepsie—they kept up an almost daily correspondence. From this correspondence we find that the party opposed to ratification in New York contended that the Constitution would too greatly restrict the liberties of the people, and they therefore insisted on amendments, either before or after ratification. Then follow the annexed letters, written just after the result in Virginia, and whilst it was still doubtful in New York, (Mr. Madison having gone from Richmond to New York.)

Hamilton to Madison.

JULY 8, 1788.

MY DEAR SIR: I felicitate you sincerely on the event in Virginia; but my satisfaction will be allayed if I discover too much facility in the business of amendment-making. I fear the system will be wounded in some of its vital parts by too general a concurrence in some very injudicious recommendations. I allude more particularly to the power of taxation. The more I consider the more I am out of humor with it. We yesterday passed through the Constitution. To-day some definite proposition is to be brought forward, but what we are at a loss to judge. We have good reason to believe that our opponents are not agreed, and this affords some ground of hope. Different things are thought of—conditions precedent, or previous amendments; conditions subsequent, or the proposition of amendments, upon condition that if they are not adopted within a limited time, the State shall be at liberty to withdraw from the Union; and lastly, recommendatory amendments. In either case, constructive declarations will be carried as far as possible. We will go as far as we can in the latter without invalidating the act, and will concur in rational recommendations. The rest for our opponents. We are informed there has been a disturbance in the city of Albany, on the 4th of July, which has occasioned bloodshed. The Anti-Federalists were the aggressors, and the Federalists the victors. Thus stand our accounts at present. We trust, however, the matter has passed over, and tranquility been restored. Yours, affectionately,

A. HAMILTON.

Hamilton to Madison.

POUGHKEEPSIE, SATURDAY, JULY, 1788.

I thank you, my dear sir, for yours by the post. Yesterday I communicated to Duer our situation, which I presume he will have communicated to you. It remains exactly the same. No further question having been taken, I fear the footing I mentioned to Duer is the best upon which it can be placed; but every thing possible will yet be attempted to bring the party from that stand to an unequalled ratification. Let me know your idea upon the possibility of our being received on that plan. You will understand that the only qualification will be the reservation of a right to recede, in case our amendments have not been decided upon in one of the modes pointed out by the Constitution within a certain number of years, perhaps five or seven. If this can, in the first instance, be admitted as a ratification, I do not fear any further consequences. Congress will, I presume, recommend certain amendments to render the structure of the Government more secure. This will satisfy the more considerate and honest opponents of the Constitution, and with the aid of them will break up the party. Yours, affectionately,

A. HAMILTON.

Madison to Hamilton.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY EVENING.

MY DEAR SIR: Yours of yesterday is this instant come to hand, and I have but a few minutes to answer it. I am sorry that your situation obliges you to listen to propositions of the nature you describe. My opinion is, that a reservation of a right to withdraw, if amendments be not decided on under the form of the Constitution within a certain time, is a conditional ratification; that it does not make New York a member of the new Union, and consequently that she could not be received on that plan. Compacts must be reciprocal; this principle would not in such a case be preserved. The Constitution requires an adoption in toto and forever. It has been so adopted by the other States. An adoption for a limited time would be as defective as an adoption of some of the articles only. In short, any condition whatever must vitiate the ratification. What the new Congress, by virtue of the power to admit new States, may be able and disposed to do in such a case, I do not inquire, as I suppose that is not the material point at

present. I have not a moment to add more than my fervent wishes for your success and happiness. The idea of reserving a right to withdraw was started at Richmond, and considered as a conditional ratification, which was itself abandoned as worse than a rejection. Yours,

JAMES MADISON, JR.

This shows what were Mr. Madison's opinions, which he expressed strongly and clearly. There could be no such thing as a conditional ratification—a ratification provided certain amendments were assented to, either before or after. There could be no such right reserved as a right to secede, in case their demands were not acceded to.

The opponents of the Constitution and of the Union desired an express reservation of a right to secede or withdraw from the Union, if their amendments were not granted. Why was it necessary to make such a reservation, if secession was an inherent right, a right never surrendered, as the secessionists now contend?

But the Constitution was ratified without the condition. The reservation of the right to withdraw or secede was abandoned. The ratification, without the condition, was a virtual abandonment of the claim of right to withdraw from the Union. For, if that right existed independently of the Constitution, why propose the condition, to secure or reserve it?

How emphatic is the language of Mr. Madison, that a reservation of a right to withdraw, is a "conditional ratification," under which New York would not become a member of the Union. There would be no reciprocity in such a compact. "The Constitution requires an adoption in toto and forever." The other States had so adopted and FOREVER. Mr. Madison had so adopted and FOREVER. A right to withdraw [from the Union] was started at Richmond, and considered as a conditional ratification, which was itself abandoned as worse than a rejection."

How completely this scatters to the winds the absurd doctrine of secession, which is pretended to be derived from Virginia, where it was "abandoned," and from Mr. Madison, who then and afterwards condemned it!

Mr. Madison's language in another place was sought to be tortured in our State Legislature into the assertion of a right to secede. And those who cited his great name professed entire reliance on him as a faithful expounder of the Constitution. Will they now withdraw the compliments they lavished on him, or will they admit the force of his clear, unmisinterpretable, unanswerable language in the above letter?

POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN GEORGIA.

Our information from the State of Georgia is that the Hon. ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS declines being a candidate for Governor, and recommends to the "Union" party, of which he is a zealous member, to support Ex-Speaker Cons for that office. It gives us pleasure to notice this instance of fratricidal of the leading members of the old parties in Georgia upon the great platform of the Union—the broadest and the firmest that any party can stand upon.

Mr. Cobb himself is nobly doing his duty as a true and faithful citizen of the United States. The speeches which he is delivering are distinguished by great ability and force, and are listened to with marked respect and attention.

Mr. PARROTT, Chief Clerk of the Naval Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, having lately resigned that office, we are glad to learn that Mr. THOMAS FILLBROW, the next clerk in seniority, has been promoted to the vacant place. We are pleased to see this practice of promotion prevailing in the Civil as well as the Military branches of the public service. It is creditable to the Administration. While the public interest is advanced, meritorious services are rewarded by it. Several instances of civil promotion have lately taken place, by all of which the public service will be benefited: namely, in the Chief Clerkship in the War Department; in the same post in the Treasury Department; in the promotion of two assistants in the Patent Office to principal examinerships; and now in that of the experienced second clerk in the Bureau above mentioned. There may be others which we are not informed of, or which do not occur to us at the moment.

LARGE INCREASE OF IMMIGRATION.—The following exhibit of the ingress of foreigners at the port of New York for the first four months of the present year, shows an extraordinary increase over the corresponding months of preceding years. Compared with last year, it is as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Month, 1850, 1851. Rows: January, February, March, April, Total.

Increase this year over last.....30,157.

Of those who arrived during April, there came from Ireland, 15,968; Germany, 6,372; England, 2,679; Scotland, 726; and from France, 717. It will be observed that the increase is almost entirely in the Irish immigration. Of this class, a large proportion are landed in a state of the most abject poverty, and often incapacitated by disease, deformity, or the infirmities of age for self-support. The German immigration has not yet fairly set in.—Journal of Commerce.

Col. A. R. WOOLLEY, Indian Agent for New Mexico, Mr. J. FOLGER, and others left St. Louis for the Missouri river on the 23d of April, on their way to Santa Fe.

THE GEORGETOWN REPORTER.

This is the title of a new tri-weekly paper started in Georgetown, D. C., under the conduct of Mr. J. A. WILLIAMSON. The Reporter is printed on good paper, and contains reading matter of general interest.

JENNY LIND.

The concert of the Swedish Songstress at Baltimore on Thursday evening was attended by the same brilliant success as her former concert in that city. She left Baltimore yesterday for Philadelphia.

In the case of the State of Maryland against George W. Burnham, indicted for the larceny of a portion of the money stolen from Messrs. Adams & Co.'s Express, the jury, on Thursday morning, returned a verdict of not guilty, and he was accordingly discharged from custody.

THE STEAMSHIP PACIFIC WILL SAIL ON THE 10th INSTANT,

and has a large number of passengers engaged. She has still very desirable rooms for more passengers.

SINGULAR AND FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday morning two men, named Andrew Rutledge and Alexander Carlsden, employed in the distillery of N. C. Ely & Co., Williamsburgh, (N. Y.) lost their lives by inhaling carbonic acid gas, evolved by the fermentation of molasses. Rutledge accidentally fell into a cistern in which molasses was "working," and Carlsden, in his efforts to rescue him, shared the same fate.

ACCIDENT ON THE RAILROAD.—We learn that quite a serious accident occurred to the train of cars from Washington for Baltimore, on Thursday evening, when about twelve miles from Baltimore, causing a detention of several hours. As far as we could learn, the cars ran over a cow lying on the track, throwing both locomotive and baggage car off, and somewhat damaging the former. The cars did not reach Baltimore until 11½ o'clock Thursday night.

THE UNLAWFUL ENTERPRISE AGAINST CUBA.

We are somewhat doubtful whether we have, as seems to be generally supposed, seen the end of the latest project of piracy and plunder against the Spanish island of Cuba. At New York, certainly, the sailing of the conspirators and their miserable instruments and dupes has been prevented. But we should not be surprised at any moment by Telegraphic information that some portion of the adventurers from the Southern shores had made or attempted a landing at some point or other on the coast of Cuba. Whilst in uncertainty on this head, we have thought it due not only to the Administration, but to the intelligence and honorable spirit of the Press generally, to exhibit the further proof which follows—which might be augmented almost indefinitely—that the sound sentiment of the People approves the prompt and faithful discharge by the President of the United States of his duty in the premises.

FROM "THE VIRGINIA HERALD."

NATIONAL CHARACTER.—Intelligence from the South renders it probable that the effort is being renewed in that quarter to organize armed forces for a descent upon Cuba. It is believed that a large part of the Cuban population are so disaffected to the existing Government as to be ready for resistance; and this enterprise of certain restless spirits of the South is designed to produce a civil revolution in that island.

We have no fears that the present wise and patriotic chief officer of our country will fail to use the utmost energy which may be needed to suppress this contemplated outrage on the rights of a friendly Power. It is much to be lamented that, while our republic is held up to the world as a bright example of free institutions, her character should be tarnished by such demonstrations of the spirit of aggression and injustice on the part of any number of her citizens. And, although this spirit may be exhibited by a few only, yet the degree of its prevalence is never properly appreciated by observers abroad, and its manifestation in our midst is quoted as one of the legitimate fruits of our institutions. Our public authorities and our people every where cannot, therefore, be too zealous in suppressing its first indications.

This thirst for excitement and adventure is not the least of the long train of evils which the Mexican war inflicted upon the country. That it is the true offspring of every war for conquest is the voice of history. And more especially upon the people of a free Government is such an influence disastrous. The lapse of a quarter of a century, and the restraints of a regal Government, have not sufficed to extinguish in the breast of the French people that love of military glory and of aggressive war which was kindled in the days of the Consulate. The recent brilliant achievements of Americans; the ardent, fearless spirit of our people; and the peculiar political condition of Canada, Cuba, and Mexico, are fearful incentives to the growth of this spirit in our land. It may be deemed by some an idle apprehension to speak of an invasion of these territories by our people. So it would have been deemed an idle prophecy, five years ago, to have predicted the conquest of California and New Mexico. *Obsta principis* was a wise maxim of the ancients. Let the first rising of a spirit to commit aggression upon a neighboring Power be indignantly frowned upon by the people, and promptly punished by the dispensers of the law.

FROM THE LOUISVILLE DAILY COURIER.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.—The last letter published by us from our Washington correspondent announced that the President would in a few days issue a proclamation against the Cuban adventurers that were engaged in organizing a second expedition. The telegraph last night brought us the purport of that proclamation. Its tone and spirit is such as might have been expected from an upright and patriotic Chief Magistrate as Mr. FILLMORE, in all emergencies and under all circumstances, has proven himself to be. His political principles, as well as of those by whose suffrages he was elevated to the responsible trust he is so satisfactorily filling, teach him that our salvation as a nation depends upon an impartial and rigid enforcement of the laws, a strict conformity to all the provisions of the constitution, and in the observance of good faith towards all other nations with whom we are at peace. Our neutrality and treaty obligations have been carried out with faithful fidelity by this purely Whig Administration, and will continue to be so until the end of Mr. Fillmore's term of service. Those, therefore, who contemplate an invasion of Cuba, or a forced resistance to the execution of the fugitive slave law, or a dismemberment of the Union, by setting at defiance any of the laws of the land, can, in the spirit of this proclamation, read the fate that inevitably awaits them.

FROM THE BUFFALO COURIER.

The opposition papers insist that the Administration is responsible for the absurd preliminary movements against Cuba, in New York and elsewhere, inasmuch as it did not procure the conviction of Lopez and his confederate marauders at New Orleans. It is difficult to imagine a more preposterous allegation. What has the Executive to do with courts of law? Lopez and several of his confederates were indicted at New Orleans and tried before the United States Court. Owing to the vicious state of the popular feeling in that city, the jury would not convict them. The Administration cannot be blamed for this result, and no fair-minded editor will make it a ground of censure or reproach. On all proper occasions the President and his Cabinet have shown their determination to execute all laws and fulfill all treaty stipulations. This fact is notorious and undeniable, and the people are not to be deceived on this point by carping journals in any part of the country.

FROM THE BRIDGEPORT STANDARD.

INVASION OF CUBA.—It is much to be regretted that there should be persons in this country who are engaged in this expedition, who, in violation of our treaty with Spain, our good faith towards that country, and in violation of our statute laws, should encourage and support the invasion, to wrest from Spain the fair island of Cuba. This plot is not confined exclusively to the reckless and inconsiderate, but the leaders are said to be men of weight and influence.

The President's timely interference, and the vigilance of the United States authorities, may prevent the departure of any expedition; and, should the persons now under arrest be convicted, it may operate as a warning to the misguided ones who compose the army of invaders.

No one can help but admire the course of the President, and his determination to preserve inviolate our neutrality with Spain, a power with whom we are on terms of amity and peace.

We have, and so have the people, every confidence in the Administration, and we believe that they will act wisely and discreetly in this Cuban matter; and, though it is much to be lamented that such treasonable designs exist as to wage an unjust war against the inhabitants of an island belonging to a friendly nation, it is a matter of rejoicing that we have a President who disconcerts all such invasions and conquests, and who will firmly maintain the laws and preserve inviolate our treaties.

FROM THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL.

When General Taylor issued his proclamation directed against the Lopez expedition, the opponents of the Administration ridiculed the whole affair, and said that the President had been hoaxed. When bands of the invading forces actually assembled on the coast with arms, and provisions, and vessels for transportation, then the same objectors denied the right of the President to interfere in the matter. The course of the Administration, throughout the whole of that affair, was in the highest degree creditable, manifesting a determination to maintain our neutrality and to keep the faith of treaties, and at the same time exhibiting the kindest feelings towards the poor fellows who had been deluded by false representations and false promises into an unlawful and wicked scheme of piracy. The event proved that the earliest and most authentic information upon this subject came into possession of the Government, and that the men who ridiculed the prompt measures of the Government laughed at what they did not understand.

The same will doubtless prove to be the case in the second instance. The indefinite rumors which have been floating through the newspapers have doubtless reached the Govern-

ment in a more authentic shape, and the Proclamation of the President is based upon facts which have not yet been made public, but which will attest the prudence and sagacity of the Administration. Some of these have already transpired, and others will soon come to light.

FROM THE ST. LOUIS INTELLIGENCER OF APRIL 24.

There is no longer reason to doubt that a second expedition is on foot for the invasion of Cuba. We do not doubt that the President will take the most efficient steps to suppress this second attempt to disturb the tranquillity of a neighboring Power with which we are at peace. The past conduct of the Administration affords the strongest guaranty that the utmost good faith towards Spain will be observed by our Government, and that all needful precautions will be taken to disperse the misguided persons who seem obstinately intent upon revolutionizing Cuba at the imminent risk of running their own necks into a halter. After the disastrous result of the last expedition, and the desperate chances of success in the present one, it would seem that none but fools or lunatics could be so deluded as to venture their lives upon so hazardous an enterprise. But they go into the business with their eyes open, and will have no cause of complaint at any disastrous result which may ensue.

If they render themselves amenable to the laws of this country by so wilful and flagrant an act, we trust, and do not doubt, that they will be visited with the severest penalty which attaches to the offence; and if perchance they should escape the vigilance of our own Government, and should afterwards fall into the hands of the Captain General of Cuba, they must content themselves with such tender mercies as he may see fit to extend to them. Our Government, we are satisfied, will not and ought not to interfere in their behalf. Men who wilfully and deliberately place themselves in the attitude of robbers and pirates, have no right to expect the interposition of the Government to shield them from the fate which they so wantonly provoke. It is time that we should "twine to the world, by some decisive act, that our neutrality obligations will be rigidly and faithfully observed, be the consequences what they may to the deluded men who seek to violate them. President Fillmore is not the man to shrink from the responsibility of his position in such an emergency.

FROM THE HARTFORD (CONN.) COURANT.

INVASION OF CUBA.—It is lamentable to think that the late proclamation of President Fillmore has been rendered necessary by another attempt against a neutral Power, and it is still more lamentable that such an unjust invasion of the rights of a country with whom we are on terms of amity and peace should be countenanced by so many in this land. This support is not exclusively confined to the reckless, but is secretly given by men of weight and influence, and encouraged by a large portion of that party among us whose motto, like that of the grave, is "give, give."

Mr. Fillmore's proclamation must give universal satisfaction to the lovers of peace and justice in the country, and be disapproved only by the reckless profligates who aim at plunder, or the lawless ambition of some few leaders who hope for some future contingency of preferment.

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER.

The Proclamation of the President in relation to the Cuba Expedition meets with almost universal favor. The idea of a band of desperate adventurers organizing in this country for the purpose of capturing and plundering the possessions of a neighbor and a friend is alluded to by the leading journals of the day in terms of merited scorn and indignation. If the Cubans really desire to be released from the yoke of Spain, they should make an effort of themselves. That much disaffection prevails in the island is high probable; but their cause in this country is evidently in desperate and dangerous, not to say profligate hands. The first expedition was wretchedly managed, and its failure contributed rather to the injury than the benefit of the disaffected in Cuba. The second expedition may also be regarded as having failed, and the cause will therefore be damaged still further.

It is quite natural for the people of the United States to feel a lively sympathy for all who regard themselves as oppressed, and who desire to enjoy the blessings of constitutional and republican Government. But we have duties to perform and treaties to adhere to, and any violation of these would subject us to the merited reproaches of the enlightened and the civilized throughout the world. Hence, we repeat, the course of the Executive has been altogether proper, and we are glad to find that this is the general sentiment of the public.

FROM THE NEW YORK "EXPRESS."

THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION meets with favor with all but the radical press of the country. Facts which have recently transpired demonstrate its necessity and the wisdom which called it forth. We hope there is now an end to its attempt to violate the law, and to trample treaty stipulations under foot. It is disgraceful that American hospitality and freedom should be abused as they have been by the outlaws among us. It is still more mortifying that any of our own countrymen should be guilty of giving aid and countenance to such lawlessness. We know that these contemplated invasions of Cuba from this country strike the moral sense of the great body of intelligent people here with abhorrence, and that it is only the ambitious and vicious, the selfish speculators and irresponsible innovators among us, who have winked at these outrages. All others desire that there should be no more foreign territory annexed to our country, knowing as they do that the fruits of such additions will be bitter and poisonous to the end. We have had a foretaste of this bitterness in the annexation of Texas, the war with Mexico, and in the whole trailing train of evils which have ensued as well of domestic strife, and so frequently threatened us with civil war. Let Cuba be as she is, rather than what she might be by annexation to the American Republic.

FROM THE RICHMOND REPUBLICAN.

The President's proclamation in reference to the Cuba affair exhibits a manly and proper determination to maintain the neutrality and the good faith of the nation. None will have more real reason to be grateful to the President for his efforts to arrest a lawless invasion of Cuba than the misguided adventurers themselves, who, if they could succeed in landing in that island, would step at once from the coast to prison and the scaffold. We know not whether to wonder most at the profligacy or the folly of such an attempt. What would be our opinion of a neighboring people who should invade us in like manner? If the Cubans are oppressed, why should they not show it by rising themselves? If they are afraid to do that, they will be too cowardly to assist any small buccannery party which may come to their rescue from any other country.

PROJECTED RAILROADS IN THE SOUTH.

The Railroad Convention which assembled at New Orleans week before last, to consider the best plan of connecting New Orleans (by way of Jackson, Mississippi) with the great system of railways now under consideration and projected in the States of Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee, decided to make a road from New Orleans along the banks of the Mississippi river as far as Baton Rouge, and thence diverge towards the State of Mississippi.

This will give a continuous line of railroad between the extreme points of about two hundred miles in length, which is estimated to cost three millions of dollars. A rival proposition was submitted, proposing to run the road by way of Madisonville, and to connect with New Orleans by a steam ferry, the rejection of which caused its friends to withdraw from the Convention. The friends of the route adopted, composing a large majority of the Convention, think that it will be carried out speedily and successfully.

In the course of his speech in the Virginia Convention, on Monday, Mr. WISE, in quoting from some statistics prepared by Mr. WILLIAM DARBY, said that eminent historian, geographer, and statistician a compliment which his abilities and acquirements deserve. The writings of Mr. DARBY will be hereafter considered as the most valuable of the present time, in all that regards the population, resources, and growth of the United States. Had he lived in France, he would have been looked upon there as a philosophic statesman worthy of a seat in the Academy, and of a post of honor in the councils of the nation. We are afraid, however, that with us his merits are disregarded or overlooked. It is time that a different estimate should be placed upon his labors. [Alexandria Gazette.]

RAPID PROGRESSION OF ELECTRO MAGNETIC POWER.

We lay before our readers a statement from Professor PAGE respecting the *Electro-Magnetic Locomotive*; and when we regard the fact that the highest power ever attained before his experiments was less than half a horse power, and that costing probably one hundred times as much as it does under this new mode of its application, we cannot be indifferent to so great a result, and the high promises with which it seems to be fraught:

Messrs. EDITORS: The Electro Magnetic Locomotive made a very favorable trip on Tuesday last, more especially when it is taken into the account that we were constrained to make this trial with only one-half (or even a little less) of the power the engines and battery are capable of yielding. Each engine, calculated upon the basis of my stationary engine, ought to give at the lowest estimate 12-horse power, which would make the locomotive 24-horse power. The actual power I have not been able to ascertain; but the following data may serve to give some idea of its power. The locomotive, with the battery fully charged, weighs ten and a half tons. With the seven passengers taken on the trip to and from Bladensburg the weight was eleven tons. Under the most favorable arrangements eight pounds are required to start a ton on a perfectly level rail, and seven pounds will barely keep a ton in motion. Ordinarily, upon railroads the allowance is ten pounds to a ton, but this applies only to cars unincumbered by machinery. The friction of locomotive machinery renders its draught far greater, and can only be accurately ascertained by experiment in each case. The magnetic locomotive, the first of its kind ever made, is imperfect, and, from the newness and stiffness of all the work, it runs exceedingly hard. We will take 200 pounds, which is below the actual power required to keep it in motion on a level portion of the road. A horse power upon the usual estimate is 150 pounds 2½ miles an hour, or 375 pounds 1 mile an hour. The speed of the magnetic locomotive is, we will say, 15 miles an hour on a level road, (it has in fact made more,) and its traction 200 pounds. We have then 375 pounds 1 mile an hour for one horse, and 200 pounds 15 miles an hour for the locomotive, which gives eight horse power. But the engine has more than this. It has greater power at a slow speed, and must have, by all reasonable estimates, twelve horse power; which, as I said before, is about one-half its proper capacity. One of the most serious defects arises from a want of insulation in the bellies. After the engine was placed on the road it was found necessary to throw out of action five of the bellies, and these at the most important point in the stroke. This difficulty could not be remedied without taking both engines entirely out—an undertaking for which I had neither time nor means, as the track with which we are now accommodated is soon to be filled up for the purposes of the Railroad Company. Another serious difficulty encountered was the breaking of the porous cells in the battery, causing a mixture of the two acids, and the interception of a large portion of the power. I had great difficulty in procuring suitable porous cells, and the manufacture of such as I needed was, after a great expense, given up by two of the best pottery establishments in the country as a thing impracticable. It was, however, accomplished through the ingenuity of Mr. Ari Davis, my engineer, but they were made of a weak clay, and have now, from frequent use, become so much impaired as to break from the slightest causes. Before we started two of them broke, and the defect was only partially repaired. Not far from Bladensburg two more gave way, and detracted at once greatly from our working power. On our return, about two miles from Bladensburg, three more gave way, and we were reduced to at least one-half of our power. The running time from Washington to Bladensburg was thirty-nine minutes. We were stopped on the way five times, or we should have probably made the run in less than thirty minutes. Going and coming there were seven stops and three delays—that is, the engine was backed three times, but without losing headway. It is a very important and interesting feature of this engine, which I demonstrated some years since, that the reversing power is greater than the propelling power; it is nearly twice as great. When the engine is reversed, the magnetic electric induction is in favor of the battery current, and augments its effects. The defect of the cells is easily remedied. The trouble growing out of the oscillating motion of the car can all be obviated by using rotary instead of reciprocating engines. The greatest speed attained on our last trip was about nineteen miles an hour, and about seven more than in any former experiment.

CHARLES G. PAGE.

WASHINGTON, MAY 1, 1851.

GIRDING THE GLOBE.—A writer in the *London Mechanic's Magazine* talks of a magnetic telegraph around the world as among the probabilities. He says that an electric telegraph to Calais is not a thing which will stop there. It is a telegraph to Vienna, to Moscow, to Constantinople, to Isphahan, to Delhi, to Calcutta—in the remotest bounds, in short, of Europe and Asia. A few years ago people laughed when Lord Palmerston predicted, at the Southampton meeting of the British Association, that a time might come when the Minister of the day, being asked in Parliament whether it was true that a war had broken out in India, would reply: "Wait an instant till I telegraph the Governor-General, and I will tell you." What was thought but a good joke in 1843, is now in 1850 in the course of being actually accomplished, and ere a few years more is likely to take its place among the sober realities of the age. Nor to the Old World alone need our view of the ultimate progress of electro-telegraphy be confined; for, since the English channel has been crossed, the crossing of the Irish must follow as but a matter of course; and, Ireland once reached, there lies but a couple of thousand miles of water or so between the Old World and the New.—Salem Gazette.

FROM KEY WEST.—The following is an extract from a letter received by E. WALTERS, Esq., secretary of the board of underwriters of the port of New York, dated at Key West on the 22d ultimo:

"There is considerable anxiety here relative to a Cuba expedition. I hear from a reliable source that men and arms are ready, and that an attempt will be made soon to invade the island. If my countrymen do again land on the soil of Cuba, with a view to its capture, while we are at peace with Spain, I trust that they will receive no protection from the United States.

The Journal, the *Annals of Mines*, contains, as received by the French Minister of Public Works from the Government of the United States, a full report of California, its population, its mines, climate, soil, and various productions. Mr. Carbuccia, who has a military command in Algeria, has been employed in searching for the cities and Roman stations which are designated by the Roman historians and geographers. He has discovered that nearly all the military milestones are still as they were, and with the Latin inscription which indicates the millia, or distance between the stations. His soldiers cleared away a number of edifices or ancient monuments, an immense circus, a fine temple of Esculapius, with an avenue of small chapels dedicated to other gods, a christian basilica, with a magnificent mosaic pavement, an immense column, upon the base of which there is an imperial order of the day and a sort of address to the troops. He had found six triumphal arches, and, besides, a theatre, wherein he lighted upon the strong-box filled with Roman coins. He has brought to Paris a rich portfolio of historical inscriptions, plans, elevations of the monuments, &c. A French traveller, Mr. Cyrius Duperron, now exploring Egypt, has collected for the Ethnographical Museum of Paris many curious inscriptions from the walls of the great temple of Phylis.

[Correspondence Journal of Commerce.]

Don't live in hope with your arms folded. Fortune smiles on those who roll up their sleeves and put shoulders to the wheel that propels them on to wealth and happiness. [Cut this out, and carry it about in your vest pocket, ye who idle in bar rooms or at the corners of the streets.]—Sun.

A slender rail of Ashbel Fairbanks and wife vs. Samuel R. Burroughs, all of Warren, was concluded before the Supreme Court at Worcester, (Mass.) last Friday, by a verdict of \$7,600 damages in favor of the plaintiffs. The Worcester press report the trial, and pronounce the verdict a most righteous one.

ARRIVAL OF THE NIAGARA AT HALIFAX.

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.

The Cunard mail steamer *Niagara* reached Halifax on Tuesday evening, at 7 o'clock, and probably reached Boston on Thursday morning about the same hour. She left Liverpool on the 19th. The *Niagara* brought seven passengers for Halifax, and forty-one for the United States.

The United States mail steamer *Franklin*, which left New York at noon of the 5th instant, with a strong head wind, arrived at Cowes at 3 P. M. on the 18th.

The United States steamer *Arctic*, which left New York on the 2d, arrived at Liverpool on the 16th, at 7 P. M.

The steamship *City of Glasgow* left Liverpool for Philadelphia on the 16th ultimo with a large freight and 120 passengers, among whom is the Hon. Mr. CLEMONS, United States Representative to Belgium.

The news, as communicated by telegraph, amounts to nothing, the debate upon and defeat of Mr. D. Israel's motion having been reported in full by the last steamer. The remainder may be thus summed up. Parliament had taken its Easter recess—to re-assemble on the 28th. The Queen will open the World's Fair in state. The overland mail had arrived, without important news. Freights were taken at Canton at £1 10s., with a prospect of decline. Late accounts from the Cape report a decisive victory by the British forces over the Kaffirs at Rat river.

HOW PUBLIC OPINION IS MANUFACTURED.

FROM THE "SOUTHERN PATRIOT" OF APRIL 25.

We understand that our friends, the Secessionists, in Greenville, and members of the Southern Rights Association, advertised for a meeting in the Court-House last Saturday evening, and, after some delay and "drumming," they collected some fifteen persons, and thereupon proceeded to appoint fifteen delegates to represent Greenville in the Charleston Convention on the first Monday in May. Here are fifteen persons appointing themselves and others to represent a district voting two thousand strong in a Convention, which, it is said, is to set the ball of revolution in motion, and prepare the way for secession by the State Convention next winter! This meeting, with all its proceedings, goes forth to the world as public opinion, and will be so reported in all the papers of the State. This is only one instance in a hundred of the mode in which public opinion has been manufactured by a few for the many throughout the State. The secession resolutions in Anderson were passed at a meeting of not more than thirty or forty persons, as we have been credibly informed. Pretty much the same thing occurred, we understand, in Columbia.

A PROVERBIAL DISCUSSION.—A very idle controversy is going on, we observe, in some of the Northern journals, upon the question whether Mr. SUMNER, recently elected to the Senate of the United States from Massachusetts, is a Whig or